

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Ihyae Khilafat: December 2014 (Issue 2).pdf

Other known title(s): Ihyae Khilafat English: Issue 2

OFLC ref: 1600417.001

Medium: Magazine

Publisher: Ihyae Khilafat Media Commission

Country of origin: Pakistan

Language: English, Arabic

Applicant: Comptroller of Customs

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 09 August 2016

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 08 August 2016

Summary of reasons for decision:

'Ihyae Khilafat: December 2014 (Issue 2).pdf' is a downloaded copy of an English language magazine consisting of promotional material for a Pakistani offshoot of the Islamic militant organisation, the Taliban. It was submitted for classification on behalf of the Comptroller of Customs. The magazine promotes and encourages terrorism to an extent and degree that renders its availability injurious to the public good. The publication is aimed at radicalising Muslims, and persuading potential converts of the justice of the Taliban's cause. The ultimate aim is recruitment to the organisation or incitement to terrorist violence in the home countries of sympathisers. The overall context evident in the articles in the magazine justifies and rationalises terrorism, assuring readers that terror is "an essential element of psychological warfare", one that the enemy is guilty of using. The potential for harm arising from the magazine's availability is extreme. The magazine's English text, colourful appearance and striking images are designed to attract interest. Its content has the shocking appeal of the transgressive. For those already radicalised, the magazine exalts jihad and martyrdom. The young and disaffected in western societies are likely to be attracted by the way the magazine glorifies violence and makes the jihadi life seem exciting. The idea of brotherhood and belonging is likely to be very appealing to disenfranchised young men in particular. The right to freedom of expression has been considered. The classification of the magazine as "objectionable" is reasonable and demonstrably justified. The magazine features political and religious propaganda in support of terrorist causes. Political and religious speech are the most protected forms of expression under New Zealand's Bill of Rights. However, organisations that promulgate political or religious ideas do not normally go on to pursue military goals and their publications do not include incitement to violence and terrorism.

